



SUPPORTING PEOPLE AFTER REMAND OR CONVICTION (SPARC): AN INNOVATION IN PRE-CUSTODY CARE

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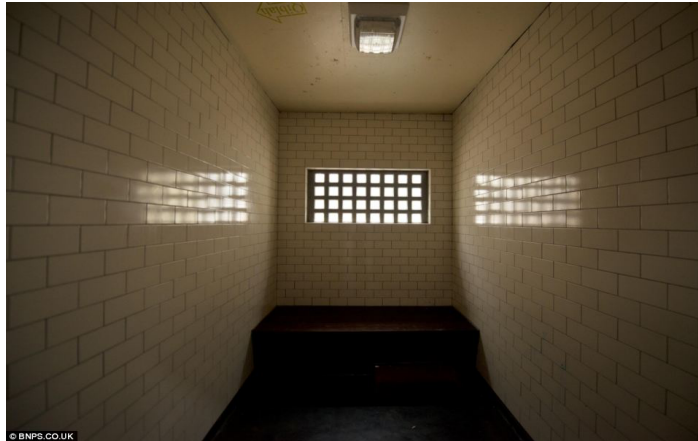
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IMAGINE

You've been locked in a room

No belongings



How would you feel?

What would you need?



Presentation Plan

- Prison context
- The SPARC model
- Theoretical background
- Case example
- Evaluation
- Conclusion
- Questions



Prison Context

Early days in custody = turbulent for many



- Distress and frustration resulting from the court system (Jacobson, Hunter & Kirby, 2015)
- Offence Related Trauma (McNair, 2002)
- Heightened risk of suicide and self harm (UK Prisons and Probation Ombudsman, 2016)
- Imported vulnerabilities (Liebling, 2005)
- Deprivation (Sykes, 1958; Crewe, 2011)
- Family ties, accommodation, employment, finances, health (Jacobson, Edgar & Loucks, 2008).
- Better support required for vulnerable people in CJS (Bradley, 2009)

The SPARC Model



- Lincolnshire Action Trust Practitioners based in Court custody suites
- Support to newly sentenced or remanded prisoners while in the court cells —————> keep safe interview
- Address immediate welfare needs: referrals to prison healthcare, mental health and substance misuse teams; contact families; securing pets and properties; information sharing with the prison in relation to risk and security; provide information to prisoners and their families about regime, rules and ways to keep in touch
- Ongoing follow up support in the prison the day after arrival

SPARC Needs

Just a few examples . . .



"My children are expecting me to pick them up from school this afternoon."

"I've got the bank card and my girlfriend has no money."

"My boss doesn't know I'm in court - now I'll lose my job."

"I'm going to prison - I'll lose my flat."

"My girlfriend was crying in court - I'm so worried about her."

"There's no-one to look after my cat."

Theoretical Background

- Wise Intervention (Walton 2014)
- Maslow's Hierarchy of Need (1943)
- Procedural Justice (Tyler, 2007)
- Good Lives Model (Ward & Stewart, 2003)
- Hope Theory (Snyder, 1995)
- Crisis Intervention (Rogers, 2005)

Miles (2015)



Theoretical background 2

- Increased wellbeing:
- Dodge et al (2012)



- Behavioural Nudges (Thaler & Sunstein, 2008)
- Individual needs approach



Case Example

DEAN



- Remanded to prison – very distressed.
- Needs identified during keep safe interview: statements of intent to commit suicide, depression, alcohol dependent, pet dog, tenancy
- Suicide and self harm alert completed in court and handed over to reception staff, urgent mental health and substance referral – mental health substance misuse nurses met him in reception; dog located and safe – arrangements made for ongoing care; liaison with Auntie to provide information and secure tenancy, attendance at ACCT reviews.
- Engagement in sentence, completion of courses and has not returned to custody

Evaluation

Part 1 – Keep Safe Interviews

- 1,302 interviews over a 2 year period
- 1035 interviews at Magistrates Court, 267 Crown
- 1093 different people (209 people were seen more than once*)
- **Needs:** 46% physical health, 43% mental health, 16% suicide and self-harm concerns, 50% substance misuse concerns, 14% learning need, 15% language needs, 27% security concerns, 54% immediate concerns
- **History:** 20% no GP, 46% no mental health support, 54% no substance misuse support, 59% substance misuse related to offending
- **Activity:** 328 physical health referrals, 491 substance misuse referrals, 443 mental health referrals, 177 suicide alerts, 295 security alerts, 175 families contacted, 31 pets secured, 14 safeguarding referrals made.



*2nd appearances excluded from needs and history data

Evaluation



Part 2 – Safer Custody Surveys

- 289 respondents, volunteers within local prison served by SPARC
- SPARC (N=71) vs Non-SPARC (N=218) no significant differences in demographics of 2 groups
- 87.3% found SPARC helpful. Helpful across all age groups, whether previous custody experiences and residential location
- SPARC clients scored significantly more positively on Clinical Outcomes Routine Evaluation (CORE; Evans et al, 2002) than non-SPARC
- SPARC clients scored significantly more positively on the wellbeing, functioning and problems subscales of the CORE
- Less feelings of panic, terror, despair, hopelessness, tension, anxiety and isolation; more feelings of being happy and being able to do things they needed to.



Evaluation

Part 3- Focus groups



- 11 participants across vulnerable prisoner and 'main' populations.
- Positive feelings e.g. reassurance, calming
- Support 'outside the system'
- Better prepared for prison
- Support with practicalities & impact on release
- Help for families
- SPARC as a quality service (e.g. accountability and action planning)
- Immediacy and continuity

Conclusion



- SPARC is a Wise Intervention which aims to support people during their transition into custody through a series of behavioural nudges unique to each individual, embedded within theoretical underpinnings from Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, Procedural Justice and the Good Lives Model
- SPARC works to decrease challenges while increasing resources
- SPARC provides an opportunity to monitor the needs of people at the specific point of entry into prison custody from court
- SPARC clients display higher levels of wellbeing than those who do not receive the intervention
- Further research is required to ascertain long term impact.

QUESTIONS



Thank you



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